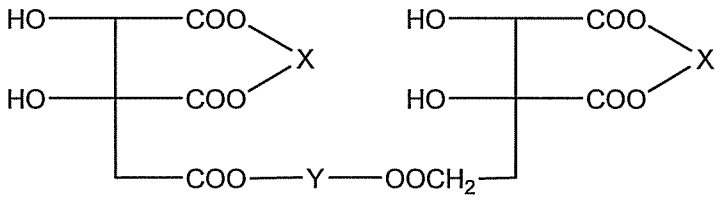
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Double salts of (–)-hydroxycitric acid (HCA) as shown in the general formula I

[I]



(I),

wherein X and Y are independently selected from metals of group II (IIA & IIB) of the Periodic Table.

2. (Original) The double metal salts as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metals are group II metals and are independently selected from Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba or Ra (group IIA), Zn, Cd or Hg (group IIB) in the form of their carbonates, oxides or hydroxides.

3. (Original) The calcium and magnesium double salt of (–)-HCA as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is calcium and Y is magnesium.

4. (Original) The calcium and zinc double salt of (–)-HCA as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is calcium and Y is zinc.

5. (Original) The magnesium and zinc double salt of (–)-HCA as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is magnesium and Y is zinc.

6. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A process for preparing double salts of (–)-hydroxycitric acid comprising the steps of adding required quantity of an aqueous solution of one group II metal compound to an aqueous purified extract of (–)-hydroxycitric acid followed by the

addition of an aqueous solution of ~~the~~ a second group II metal compound under stirring and thereafter recovering the double salts from the reaction mixture by known means.

7. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the metal compounds belong to group II and a first added group II metal compound is magnesium carbonate and the second added group II metal compound is calcium hydroxide.

8. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claims 6 and 7, wherein the aqueous purified extract of (–)-HCA is obtained by treating the insoluble calcium hydroxycitrate with phosphoric acid or may be obtained by passing the water extract of *Garcinia* rind through anion exchange column followed by cation exchange column.

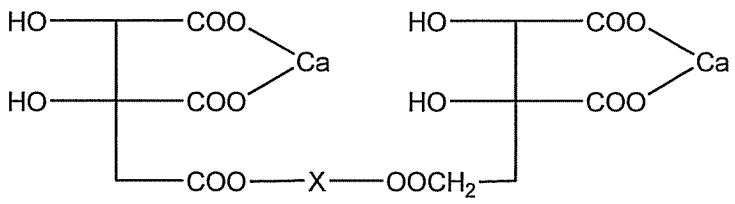
9. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claims 6 to 8, wherein the double salt is recovered by removing water from the reaction mixture under reduced pressure or spray dried.

10. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claims 6 to 8 wherein said double salt is separated from the reaction mixture by adding water miscible organic solvents and filtering.

11. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein said water miscible organic solvents are alcohols, acetone, acetonitrile, dioxan, tetrahydrofuran or mixtures thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The double salt of HCA as claimed in claims 1 ~~and~~ or 3, which is calcium and magnesium double salt of the formula II

[II]



(II).

13. (Currently Amended) The double salt as claimed in claim 12, which has 5~~-to-~~20% by weight of calcium and 2~~-to-~~10% by weight of magnesium.

14. (Currently Amended) The calcium and magnesium double salt of (–)-HCA as claimed in claims 1 ~~and~~ or 12, which has 50-80% by weight~~-wt %~~ of HCA, 0-0.5% by weight~~-wt %~~ of lactone, 5-16% by weight~~-wt %~~ of calcium and 3-10% by weight~~-wt %~~ of magnesium.

15. (Currently Amended) The calcium and zinc double salt of (–)-HCA as claimed in claims 1 ~~and~~ or 4, which has 50-75% by weight~~-wt %~~ of HCA, 0-0.5% by weight~~-wt %~~ of lactone, 8-15% by weight~~-wt %~~ of calcium and 5-12% by weight~~-wt %~~ of zinc.

16. (Currently Amended) The magnesium and zinc double salt of (–)-HCA as claimed in claims 1 ~~and~~ or 5, which has 50-80% by weight~~-wt %~~ of HCA, 0-0.5% by weight~~-wt %~~ of lactone, 5-10% by weight~~-wt %~~ of magnesium and 5-15% by weight~~-wt %~~ of zinc.

17. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of 'reducing obesity' in mammals, wherein double salts of (–)-HCA as claimed in claim 1 are administered.

18. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of treating 'osteoporosis', wherein double salts of (–)-HCA as claimed in claims 1 and 12 are administered.

19. (Currently Amended) The double metal salts of (–)-HCA as ~~calimed~~ claimed in claim 1, for use in dietary or beverages or nutraceutical supplements.